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NEW ELEMENTS OF COMET *c* 1895 (PERRINE).

The following elements of Comet *c* 1895 are based upon Mr. PERRINE's observations, made November 17th, 24th, and December 1st.

$$\begin{aligned} T &= \text{G. m. t., 1895 Dec. 18.32570} \\ \omega &= 272^\circ 35' 38''.0 \\ \Omega &= 320 \quad 26 \quad 19 \quad .1 \\ i &= 141 \quad 39 \quad 22 \quad .6 \end{aligned} \left. \vphantom{\begin{aligned} T \\ \omega \\ \Omega \\ i \end{aligned}} \right\} 1895.0$$

$$q = 0.192253$$

$$O - C: \cos \beta' \Delta \lambda' = - 1''.9; \Delta \beta' = - 2''.1$$

W. W. C.

## A MEDIEVAL GUESS AT THE ORIGIN OF THINGS.

Professor HENRY G. HANKS, of San Francisco, sends the following extract:

"In very deed (that I may expound the matter in a few words) I found all things that are generated in the bowels of the mountains to be infused from the superior stars, and take their beginning from them in the form of an *aqueous cloud*, fume, or vapor, which for a very long time fed and nourished by the stars, is at length educated to a tangible form by the elements. Moreover, this vapor is dried, that the wateriness may lose its dominion and the fire next by the help of the air retain the ruling power. Of water-fire and of fire and air, earth is composed."

This paragraph is taken from "BASIL VALENTINE, his Triumphal Chariot of Antimony, with annotations by THEODORE KIRKCRINGIUS," London, 1678, (page 145), which is a translation from the original work, *Currus Triumphalis Antimonii* (XV. century).

## THE NEW OBSERVATORY OF HEIDELBERG.

A private letter from Professor MAX WOLF notifies that considerable progress has been made in the buildings of the new Heidelberg observatory. The institution is built on the summit of the *Königstuhl*, 570 metres above sea-level, and 460 metres above the flat land near the river. The buildings are of stone; the dwelling-house is already under cover; the astrophysical laboratory is nearly finished; the tower for the astrophysical observatory (Professor WOLF) and the astronomical observatory (Professor VALENTINER) are about half-finished (November, 1895).

E. S. H.